



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Osseo Area Schools Legislative Priorities: Ensuring Equitable Scholar Achievement and Enhancing Safety through Stable and Predictable Funding

Osseo Area Schools is committed to giving scholars and families the educational experience they desire and deserve as outlined in our strategic plan. It's a bold future, but one our scholars are in desperate need of after some tough years. It's going to take the financial backing of our state and communities to bring this to life. As such, we strongly believe that educational decisions that directly impact our scholars should be made at the local level. The following priorities have been identified to secure the necessary funds to achieve these critical needs:

PROVIDE STABLE, PREDICTABLE FUNDING

- Increase the general education formula by an additional 2% for fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027.
 - Increase inflation range to a 2-4% increase annually, instead of 2-3% as under current law.
- Fully fund summer unemployment insurance.
- Hold district-level compensatory funding harmless at fiscal year 2025 levels going forward.
- Increase local optional revenue to \$974 per pupil and link to the basic formula.
- Link all categorical funding to inflationary increases in the general education formula.
- Fully fund the special education and English language learner cross subsidies.

ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

- Increase Safe Schools funding to \$108 per pupil to support the needs of scholars and staff.
- Expand the allowable uses of long-term facility maintenance funding to include:
 - Cybersecurity and technology infrastructure hardware.
 - The modification of buildings to enhance safety and security.

ADDRESS THE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

- Expand programs and incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers of color.
- Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of teachers, education service professionals and other staff.

REDUCE MANDATES

- Fully fund or repeal all existing unfunded mandates.
- Refrain from adding any new mandates.
- Review and repeal any obsolete requirements in current law.

These platform items align with those of several statewide education organizations, including Association of Metropolitan School Districts, Minnesota School Boards Association, Minnesota Association of School Administrators, and Minnesota Association of School Business Officials.

Our **mission** is to inspire and prepare each and every scholar with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.

Part of the work of our strategic plan has included an update to this mission statement and the creation of a vision, core values and strategic directions. School board members approved the plan in 2021 after two years of research and analysis with parents/caregivers, scholars, staff, and community members. This is the starting point for bringing our district to the next level of excellence and giving scholars and families the educational experience they desire and deserve. Visit district279.org/StrategicPlan for more information.

OUR DISTRICT SERVES MORE THAN:

21,000 preK-12 scholars and

150,000 community members
living in eight cities:

Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Corcoran, Dayton,
Maple Grove, Osseo, Plymouth, and Rogers

SCHOLAR COMPOSITION:

63% are scholars of color

42% are scholars receiving free/
reduced meals

13% are scholars receiving special
education services

11% are English Learners scholars



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Thomas Brooks

Kelsey Dawson

Erica Foster

Sarah Mitchell

Tanya Prince

Keith Tate

DISTRICT LEADERS:

Dr. Kim Hiel
Superintendent

John Morstad
Executive Director of
Finance and Operations

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